

Portrait and Signature of Pope Leo XIII.

# POPE LEO XIII.

A Pen Picture of the Great Pontiff of the Catholic Church Who Has Just Passed Away.

10, 1810, Countess | Pecci, daughter of a noble family of Sienna, gave birth to to her fourth son, destined to play one of the most important roles in the world's history-to become the "Lumen in caelo

which St. Mulachy in the eleventh century predicted would rise after him, who had borne "Crux de cruce," and papacy should be almost crushed to the earth. Surely he has filled a luminous page in the history of the Catholic church.

His mother bore the name of the mother

of the Virgin-to the boy she gave the name of the Virgin's father-Joachim, like Jose eph and Mary, sweet, familiar names in Catholic countries, Born and reared among the Volscian hills,

he was a robust, sturdy boy. At the age of 11 he contracted a serious illness, which left him the frail, delicate being he was ever after. When 27 he was threatened with consumption. He made his will-before he died, every legatee was numbered with the dead. He gave early promise of being great. In his first vacation from school he expressed to his father a desire to read and write like St. Thomas Aquinas—and "I," said the father to his wife, sighing, "wished to make a general of him." "Ah, well!" an might have been the case had Victor Emwered Comtesse Anne, "you can make a manuel lived, or had the papacy had at its

In 1877 was celebrated the golden jubilee of Pius IX. His strength was failing and he know his end was near. Death had just taken his oldest friend and paved the way for a new Camerlengo. Pius appointed supreme authority to administer the temporalities of the holy see. It was the Camerlengo who must use the silver hammer upon his brow and thrice call him by his haptismal name before it could be admitted that he was dead. Already the shadow of the cross had fallen on Cardinal Pecci. January 17, 1878, Victor Emmanuel died

in the Quirinal palace—eight days after Pius followed him, whom he had deemed the prosecutor and spoliator of the church. When the wires flashed over the world the news of Pius' death, Protestants believed that the papacy which was claimed to have come down from Peter was at an end. The questions arose, will the government not take possession of the vatican and St. Peter's? Will they, can they, allow the cardinals to assemble freely in conclave and elect a successor to Pius IX.? Will not the government raise the flag of Savoy and secure a spiritual head of its own selection who will



The Village of Carpineto, the Birthplace of Leo

pope of him. Let Joachim be pope and | head a man of less diplomatic skill, less tact. Joseph cardinal and you can be tranquil as than Cardinal Pecci. He carefully avoided to the future of our boys." On the last day everything that could give offence, but was

fever. The best medical skill was summoned from Naples and pronounced the case hopeless. The frail body, weakened with ascetic fervor, triumphed over disease and death. In his convalescent state, he began his battle, bearing harder on the rich than on the poor. Soon the Beneventini saw with joy and surprise the most dreaded chief with his band led in chains to prison. Conspira-tors found it unsafe to hatch plots where Gov. Pecci ruled and sought an asylum elsewhere. In three years the reign of law with order and peace, was established that Pope Gregory recalled him to fill a more important post.

Perugia was the seat of popular discon-tent; thither Gregory sent the successful young diplomat. Again he was successful, so successful that there came a time when the prisons of Perugia did not hold a single

There were educational disputes in Bel-gium; indeed all the affairs of the church were disordered. Gregory again turned to Mgr. Pecci to smooth difficflulties and bring order out of chaos. He went as nuncio to Brussels—a post he filled with credit to himself, the church, the Belgian court and peo-ple. It was King Leopold's verdict that he was as elever a politician as he was an excellent churchman.

Before his return to Rome he visited London and Paris, aid was received by Victoria, Prince Albert and Louis Pailippe, to whom he had been warmly recommended by Leo-

Death had claimed the hishop of Perugia. The hearts of the people and the clergy turned to him, who had endeared himself to them in his brief sejourn as governor. The pope acceded to their wishes, but in-tended first to bestow the red hat. When the nuncio reached Rome Gregory by dy-

His successor, Pius IX., confirmed the ap-pointment. For 32 years Leo filled this pastoral mission. Pius was not unmind-ful of Gregory's design for his premotion, but political troubles which crowded all the years of Pius' pontificate, delayed for six years the insignia of the red bat.

But two bullets could be east in one day-morning and evening. Two thirds majority the scientist retired and said be never was necessary to an election. If no choice saw such subjugation of matter to spirit as were made, a little smoke emitted from the in Leo XIII.

be greatly disturbed—his face expressed dismay and grief. At the second balloting the name of Pecci was called 38 times—great tears rolled down his cheeks—his pen dropped from his trembling hands. Before the third balloting he begged the cardinals to drop his name and choose one more wor. to drop his name and choose one more wor-thy. The third balloting began 44 votes were recorded against his name. He rose declaring his unworthiness. "I am old, I am declaring his unworthiness. "I am out, as in feeble. I shall soon end my days; it is not the papacy, it is death that should be given me." Finally he bowed to what his brother cardinals declared to be the Divine will and gave Leo XIII. for his pontifical name. He trembled at the threshold of this unknown glory, where he must be solitary so. known glory, where he must be solitary, so high above those who were nearest to him. The hour was very bitter. There was not a stain upon his name. In statecraft he ranked with Gladstone and Bismarck-when they passed away he stood alone as the greatest statesman in Europe. By his uniform, steady line of action, his aims were attended by remarkable success. Leo's benevolence, his self-denial surpassed even his zeal and worldly wisdom. To aid the poor he stocked all the streams he could control with fish. The fruits of his gardens he ordered to be preserved and dealt out to the A late empress craved an audience with him-had the poor taste to denounce cer-tain doctrines of the church. Leo listened with gentle courtesy. On leaving, she was bold enough to ask for his photograph and

request that he would write something be-neath it. "Leo XIII., to those who walk in darkness and will not see light," was what The war between Spain and the United

States gave Leo infinite distress. He was so torn between the appeals of his people in Spain and the reliance his loyal following in the United States placed upon his upholding the righteous end of the cause that it was feared he could not bear the strain. The queen of Holland appealed to Leo to use his influence to end the South African war. He declared no war had caused such bitterness of spirit-a war that was inspired neither by ideals of civilization nor by just national interests—but humbly added, "I can do nothing but provided and bu

can do nothing but pray for the dead." His life was regular and simple. He rose at six-rather his valet called him at six, but often found him at his desk. It is etiquette that a pope eat alone, which he did with all the hurry of a business man. At eight he entered upon the business of the walked in the vatican gardens, which he and on like a great cloud. supervised. A gardener, whom he censured for raising poor ivy, exclaimed: "His holiness can teach everyone, from his cardinals

After his walk he would return to his reception room and receive all entitled to an audience. Receiving, a pope remains seat-cd—the visitor makes three bows, one on cntering, one in the middle of the room, one when kissing the pope's slipper-audience over, he backs from the room. If Leo re-ceived an American he directed he should Cardinal Pecci. It was a position involving, during the vacancy of the papal chair, the in the middle of the day, committing but one excess. When he could clude the eyes of his doctors he would eat salad. Once when made ill by this indulgence he humbly confessed he had eaten of the forbidden thing. After dinner he indulged in the siesta, so dear to Italians, then drove in the gardens, attended by members of the Swiss and royal guards. After the drive he again began work with his secretary. At 10 he took his evening meal. After supper and late writing verses or concocting those won-derful productions he sent out to the world; often would rouse his secretary in the mid-dle of the night to take notes. He had none of the English dread of American inven-tions, but wanted everything about him upto-date, even to house-cleaning, which never occurred to any other pope. He employed His manner and his person, his mind and

his speech were peculiar, like none round him. His disposition was serene—his faith sublime. He had a strong sense of humor ture it amused him. She asked him to affix ing could happen to lessen his love, but rushes, even in the noblest mansions, added it was not for the mere love of livto battle in the intellectual arena as long as his bones held together. The scientist said Romeo. he never saw one of his age whose organiza-tion was impaired so little. He scorned doctors and doctors' stuff, yet he was cared for and watched over like a baby by Dr. to the future of our boys." On the last day of the year 1837, 13 years after the death of his much-loved mother, he was ordained to the priesthood.

Gregory XVI. appointed him governor of Base and so only obliged to cope with political conspirators, but also with well-organized bands of desperate men, given over to brigandage and snuggling—a position in which older and more experienced men had been and more experienced men had been laftled and retired. Three days after teaching his post he was stricken with typhoid fever. The best medical skill was real mental gymnastics.

Guan Cacquina recci. He carefully avoided everything that could give offence, but was for the carefully avoided everything that could give offence, but was a better the death of the smooth of the year leads there should be no delay that he could prevent in assembling the cenclave, which should be ten days after the death of a pope. At that time the papal tiara was not a crown to be coveled.

Out of sixty-four cardinals three were absent. Two were ill and McClosky only arrived in season to do homage to the successor of Pius IX. The Camerlengo preparate men, given over to bright the college of the successor of Pius IX. The Camerlengo preparate men, given over to bright the college of the successor of Pius IX. The Camerlengo preparate men, given over to bright the college of the successor of Pius IX. The Camerlengo preparate men, given over to bright the college of the successor of Pius IX. The Camerlengo preparate men, given over to bright the college of the successor of Pius IX. The Camerlengo preparate men, given over to bright the college of the successor of Pius IX. The Camerlengo preparate men, given over to bright the college of the successor of Pius IX. The Camerlengo preparate men, given over to bright the college of the successor of Pius IX. The Camerlengo preparate men, given over to bright the college of the successor of Pius IX. The Camerlengo preparate men, given over to bright the college of the successor of Pius IX. The Camerleng

Leo delighted in disputes. His eyes would sparkle—by smiles he would encourage his opponent in every way possible. For him it was real mental gymnastics.

## Kansas City, July 23.

In 1897 the Pope felt the shadow of death beginning to fall upon him, an in splendid defiance of its power wrote the following lines, which are considered

Pope Leo's Poem on Death

### Death.

The westering sun draws near his cloudy bed, Leo, and gradual darkness veils thy head: Che sluggish life-blood in thy withered veins More slowly runs its course — what then remains? Eo! Death is brandishing his fatal dart, And the grave yearns to shroud thy mortal part: But from its prison freed, the soul expands Exulting pinions to the enfranchised lands. My weary race is run — I touch the goal: hear, Lord, the feeble pantings of my soul; If it be worthy, Lord, Thy pitying breast Welcome it unto everlasting rest! May I behold Chee, Queen of earth and sky, Whose love enchained the demons lurking nigh The path to beaven; and freely shall I own 'Twas Thy sweet care that gained my blissful crown!

#### EXODUS OF PRAIRIE DOGS.

burned ballots told the fact to the outside, waiting people. The first balloting gave 23 votes to Cardinal Pecci—he was seen to of Overland "Schooners" Brought to a Halt by Myriads on the Move.

> Every now and then one hears about invasions of grasshoppers that stop railroad trains. The old yarn being unreeled the other night on the way down to the Atlantic Highlands, when & skeptic put in his unbelief, relates the New York Sun. "I have been through several he said, grasshopper epidemics," "and I never saw such things. But I did encounter an exodus of prairie dogs once on what was then a prairie in Nebraska that held up a long emigrant train for a day and a night.

"It was during the rush for Pike's Peak. It was no unusual sight to see miles and miles of covered wagons wending their way like an army toward what was supposed to be the better land. "We had been out about two weeks

from Omaha when one of the advance guard hurried back along the line with the information that a drove of prairie dogs was crossing the road a mile or so ahead, and that they were so numreous that the van guard of the prairie schooners had been stopped. A temporary halt was made.

"No one supposed it would be of long duration, but, darkness coming on, we rounded up for the night. The next morning the line did not move forward, nor did it gain an inch all day.

"Then a few of us mounted our horses and rode forward to recennoiter. When we got within a quarter of a mile of the head of the line we looked forward. The face of the carto was in motion.

"As far as the vision extended north and south, it was the same They were moving from the north to the south-the prairie dogs were. They were so close together you couldn't have tossed your hat between them. They did not seem to ay with one of the cardinals. That over, he | be panic-stricken, but just moved on "It was the strangest sight I ever

saw. Old plainesmen said they never saw anything like it. When they were first seen we turned the dogs in the train loose upon them, but the dogs soon gave out. Maybe there is some sort of affinity between domes tic dogs and prairie dogs which prompted the former to strike when it came to exterminating their spe-

"Anyhow, the domestic dogs just gave up the job. As for shooting the brown little rascals, that would have been folly. We hadn't the

ammunition. "The last night of the great ex odus, everybody, tired out with watching it, gave up the job and sought rest wherever it could be found. The next day there wasn't a prairie dog in sight. We resumed prayers, all of interest in the newspapers was read to him. He loved the news and our journey. As we neared our deskept posted on all the political events throughout the world. There was nothing schooners began to disintegrate, men in science, literature, art or philanthropy with which he was not familiar. He sat up and the sight was forgotten, I sup-

"But I never forgot it, and now and then occasionally I have met some one who also saw the sight and as I knew they were men who never drank or dreamed. I satisfied myself that I was not mistaken in an army of scrubbers, and, as he had 1,100 myself that I was not mistaken in rooms, it was a work of time, but it was done with the thoroughness of a New England housewife. He did not scorn a type writer, but thought it undignified for him some of them located, but where the devil did they come from?"

Pewter a Rare Metal.

At the beginning of the sixteenth century, pewter was so rare in England and a vein of sarcasm. A royal lady painted as to be hired by the year for noble-his portrait—it was such an atrocious carica-men's houses, and even during the his autograph—he wrote in Latin, "It is I; be not afraid. Leo XIII." A physician and scientist who visited him in 1899 said; "Leo will not die like one of us; he will important articles of housekeeping in reign of Elizabeth was a very costly licker out like a lamp having consumed its his city mansion. Before the invention last drop of oil." He loved life, said nothand Shakespeare has many allusions ing. He knew, as all knew, that he was mentally as lively as ever; said he was ready to this old custom in words put in the mouths of Iachimo, Glendower and

"Do you think it's wrong for a girl to permit a man to kiss her?" he

"She made their hats exactly alike."

-Brooklya Life.

### THE GENERAL MARKETS.

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The Thousand Islands.

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